



## H.RES. 537 – EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION AND GOALS OF "NATIONAL 9-1-1 EDUCATION MONTH", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 537 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Anna Eshoo (D-CA) on July 11, 2007. The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform ordered the resolution to be reported as amended on February 26, 2008.

H.Res. 537 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on March 10, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.Res. 537 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Supports the designation of an appropriate month as 'National 9-1-1 Education Month' and the goals of such designation; and
- Requests that the President issue a proclamation--
  - Designating a month as 'National 9-1-1 Education Month'; and
  - Calling upon Government officials, parents, teachers, school administrators, care givers, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and the people of the United States to observe such month with appropriate ceremonies, training events, and activities.

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### BACKGROUND

9-1-1 is nationally recognized as the number to call in the event of an emergency to receive immediate help from local fire, police, emergency medical services, or another emergency response unit.

In 1967, the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice recommended that a 'single number should be established' nationwide for reporting emergency situations. Several Federal Government agencies and numerous governmental officials also supported and encouraged the recommendation that such an emergency resource be established, and in 1968, the American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T) announced that it would establish the digits 9-1-1 as the emergency code throughout the United States.

The Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-81) designated 9-1-1 as the national emergency call number, and the ENHANCE 911 Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-494) established enhanced 9-1-1 as 'a high national priority' as part of our Nation's homeland security and public safety.

Throughout the United States, there are over 6,000 9-1-1 public safety answering points (PSAPs) serving more than 3,000 counties and parishes, and more than 200,000,000 9-1-1 calls are made each year. Numerous other emergency specific and non-emergency contact numbers besides 9-1-1 exist, including 2-1-1, 3-1-1, 5-1-1, 7-1-1, 8-1-1, poison control centers, and mental health hotlines, and the public needs.

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### STAFF CONTACT

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